

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03838 171737Z
ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3838

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, SGEN
SUBJ: POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

REF: GENEVA 3632

1. SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO MARC SCHREIBER'S RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION RUMORS ABOUT A REORGANIZATION OF THE OPERATION BEGAN TO CIRCULATE AMONG THE STAFF. SINCE VAN BOVEN'S ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE AS SCHREIBER'S SUCCESSOR THESE RUMORS HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM AND ARE ACCEPTED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF THE STAFF AS HAVING VALIDITY.

2. UN HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR PIERRE SANON (UPPER VOLTA) IS GIVEN CREDIT FOR MAPPING OUT THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND HE IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID HE DISCUSSED IT AT GREAT LENGTH WITH UN UNDER-SECRETARY BUFFUM. ACCORDING TO STAFF OF THE DIVISION VAN BOVEN HAS NOT RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE REORGANIZATION ALTHOUGH DURING THE PAST WEEK HE HAS HELD MEETINGS WITH ALL SECTIONS OF THE DIVISION TO GET THEIR "CANDID OPINIONS" ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION AND HOW IT SHOULD FUNCTION. JAY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03838 171737Z

LONG (BUFFUM'S ASSISTANT) AND PIERRE SANON HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT ALL DISCUSSIONS.

3. PARTICIPANTS ARE NOW ACCUSING SANON OF BEING MACHIAVELLIAN AND TRYING TO GET THE REORGANIZATION THROUGH WITHOUT STAFF CONSULTATIONS AND APPROVAL. IN ONE OF THE SECTION MEETINGS NOTES WERE TAKEN AND LATER

DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPANTS AS MINUTES. INCLUDED IN THE REPORT WERE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REORGANIZATION OF THAT PARTICULAR SECTION WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE DAY-LONG EXCHANGE.

4. AS PRESENTED TO MISSION OFFICER VERBALLY, BY SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS STAFF, THE PLAN WOULD ESTABLISH THREE SUBSTANTIVE SECTIONS IN THE DIVISION: (1) CONVENTIONS, COVENANTS, ADVISORY SERVICES AND DOCUMENTS UNDER H. MAZAUD (FRANCE) A D-1; (2) RESEARCH WOULD BE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF M. TARDU (FRANCE) A P-5; AND (3) DISCRIMINATION WOULD REMAIN UNDER GEORGE BRAND (U.K.) A P-5.

5. THIS ARRANGEMENT MIGHT POSSIBLY LEAD TO A MORE EFFICIENT OPERATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD LEAVE THE FEW AMERICANS IN THE DIVISION ALMOST, IF NOT COMPLETELY, INVISIBLE. TOM MCCARTHY (U.S.) WHO WAS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SCHREIBER WOULD ACCORDING TO RUMOR, CONTINUE IN THAT POSITION SERVING VAN BOVEN BUT HE WOULD ALSO BE ASSIGNED TO THE WORK ON CHILE. COMMENT: SINCE VAN BOVEN IS LIKELY TO WANT HIS OWN HAND-PICKED SPECIAL ASSISTANT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MCCARTHY WOULD BE EASED OUT OF THIS POSITION. END COMMENT. CICEIL GROSS (U.S.) A P-4, WOULD BE PLACED IN THE TARDU SECTION IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A RESEARCH JOB. IL. CULPEPPER (US) A P-4 NOW WORKING ON THE DECADE, WOULD BE SHIFTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. COMMENT: MISSION WAS TOLD THAT CULPEPPER WOULD BE A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE DECADE (REFTEL). IT IS NOW RUMORED THAT HE WILL BE IN ADMINIS-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03838 171737Z

TRATION. END COMMENT. PATRICK MALONE (US) A P-5 IN ADMINISTRATION, WILL BE EASED OUT BECAUSE OF ALLEGED INCOMPETENCY. HELGA KLEIN (US) A P-2 WILL REMAIN IN COMMUNICATIONS.

6. WHILE VAN BOVEN AND SANON INDICATED THAT RON DAVIDSON COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE P-5 POSITION WHICH THEY WANT TO SECURE FROM ACABQ FOR THE CHIEF OF THE SECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS (REFTEL) AND FOR WHICH THEY SOLICITED US HELP, THEY ARE NOW RECOMMENDING E. HOUSHMAND (IRAN) FOR THE JOB. VAN BOVEN AND SANON REASON THAT HOUSHMAND IS BETTER QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THE HORIZON BECAUSE OF HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH CERDS.

7. MISSION HAS NO WAY OF VERIFYING ANY OF THE ABOVE ALLEGATIONS. WE HAVE SEEN NO DOCUMENTS ON THE REORGANIZATION NOR HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE CONFIRMATION FROM VAN BOVEN OR SANON. HOWEVER, MISSION DOES BELIEVE THAT

ON BASIS OF THESE WIDE-SPREAD RUMORS THE DEPT MIGHT
CONSIDER CONTACTING BUFFUM AND INQUIRING IF A REORGANIZA-
TION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION IS BEING CONTEMPLATED
AND HOW THIS WILL EFFECT U.S. PERSONNEL. DEPT
MIGHT ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT TO BUFFUM THAT WHEN MALONE
IS EASED OUT OF ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS DIVISION, THE HIGHEST RANKING AMERICANS WILL BE
P-4'S WHEREAS THE FRENCH HAVE A D-1 AND A P-5, AND THE
SOVIETS HAVE TWO P-5 POSITIONS. SORENSON

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